

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 599 19 91

Bill H 299 S _____ Original bill & history C

H. Committee on Human Services & Aging

Hearing Date(s) Jan 30 ☒ C

Feb 11 ☒ C

_____ ☐ C

_____ ☐ C

Date Out Feb 12 ☒ C

S. Committee on Finance & Claims

Hearing Date(s) Apr 4 ☒ C

Apr 10 ☒ C

_____ ☐ C

_____ ☐ C

Apr 10 ☒ C

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Committee _____

Report _____

H. Committee on Appropriations

Mar 19 ☒ C

Mar 29 ☒ C

HB 299 INTRODUCED BY S. RICE

PROVIDE FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENT
OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

1/21	INTRODUCED		
1/21	REFERRED TO HUMAN SERVICES & AGING		
1/21	FIRST READING		
1/21	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/25	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/26	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED		
1/30	HEARING		
2/12	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
2/13	TAKEN FROM PRINTING AND REREFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS		
3/19	HEARING		
3/22	TABLED IN COMMITTEE		
3/27	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
3/28	2ND READING PASSED	85	6
3/28	ON MOTION RULES SUSPENDED TO PLACE ON 3RD READING		
3/28	3RD READING PASSED	92	7
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE		
3/28	FIRST READING		
3/28	REFERRED TO FINANCE & CLAIMS		
4/04	HEARING		
4/10	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED AS AMENDED		
4/11	2ND READING CONCURRED	50	0
4/12	3RD READING CONCURRED	43	6
	RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS		
4/15	2ND READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	87	6
4/16	3RD READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	89	10
4/19	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/19	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/19	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/24	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 599		

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/01/91

HB 300 INTRODUCED BY O'KEEFE, ET AL.

ELIMINATE SALES OF STATE LAND
ON AN INSTALLMENT BASIS

BY REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

1/21	INTRODUCED		
1/21	REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS		
1/21	FIRST READING		
1/21	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/24	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/25	FISCAL NOTE PRINTED		
3/11	HEARING		
3/25	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL PASSED		
3/27	2ND READING PASSED	89	8
3/28	3RD READING PASSED	91	7
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE		
3/28	FIRST READING		
3/28	REFERRED TO FINANCE & CLAIMS		
4/02	HEARING		
4/04	COMMITTEE REPORT—BILL CONCURRED AS AMENDED		
4/08	2ND READING CONCURRED	48	1
4/09	3RD READING CONCURRED	42	3
	RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS		
4/11	2ND READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	94	1
4/12	3RD READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	95	3
4/17	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		

illness. Ms. Jamison stated that it deals with mental illness only outpatients. There is no inpatient mental illness.

REP. JOHNSON asked if the state group health insurance plan will be required to comply with the provisions of the bill. Is there no one in the state health plan that needs this type of help?

REP. O'KEEFE stated that there are people under the state plan who need this type of help. However, the State of Montana does not come under the amendments because the amended law doesn't apply to the self insured.

REP. JOHNSON asked if we are going to amend the law to mandate the benefits. REP. O'KEEFE stated that the Department of Administration agrees with that also.

REP. JOHNSON asked about the insignificant cost increase for this type of thing. Mr. Fasbender stated that when you look at the numbers and the amount that is paid out for the treatment of alcohol and chemical addiction and compare all of the other costs that are there it is insignificant. Increasing benefits will cost less than half a percent increase for those people who are insured.

REP. JOHNSON asked what percentage and numbers are referred to. Mr. Brown stated that the numbers that BCBS had 1989 chemical dependency is \$1.655 million, however the benefits for mental health were \$6.16 million, which is about \$7.8 million total. The reason we put them together is because we run into questions about chemical dependency and alcoholism. The cost of the benefits mandated by the bill works out to about \$4.30 per month per person.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. O'KEEFE stated that inpatient treatment for mental illness is not covered in this bill. The total cost for inpatient and outpatient treatment is \$725,353. The total cost is a combination of outpatient (\$25,524) and the alcoholism and drug abuse inpatient (\$6,892) which is a total of \$32,416, not \$725,353. The big difference is the mental illness inpatient. That is a large sum of money and a whole other issue. It is going to cost insureds money, but in the long run they are going to save money. In 1979, approximately 19% of insurers in the country covered post primary treatment. In 1989, 31% of all insurers cover post primary. By the year 1999, it is expected that 47% of insurance companies on their own cover post primary.

HEARING ON HB 299

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SHEILA RICE, House District 36, Great Falls, stated that this bill deals with permanency planning for foster children. Those of us who don't work in foster care and have never been a

foster care child don't really understand what the foster care system is and what it does. Foster care is a temporary solution. These children deserve a much more permanent solution. The children in foster care don't have a home, nor are they available for adoption. Section 1, page 1, deals with the length of time a child is in foster care and disposition. Subsection 1, section 1 proposes that a child that has been out of the home for a year or longer pursuant to court order and is substantially neglected or whose parents willfully refused to remedy the circumstance that caused that child to be in foster care, is an abandoned child. If the child has been abandoned by their parents after a year in foster care, the court has remedy. Section 2, deals with the parents who are making it more difficult to make a decision. The parent has somehow been unable to remedy the circumstance that has caused the child to stay in foster care. It is likely that parent will never be capable of exercising proper child care. The bill requires the court to order the termination of the parent/child relationship if it finds the parent has failed to successfully complete treatment plans in the time period specified. The court has the option of ordering other permanent legal custody.

Proponents' Testimony:

Helen Costello, Great Falls, stated that she worked as a foster care parent and adoption worker. She also submitted written testimony. EXHIBIT 16

Jeanne Scott, Adoptive Mothers & FACET, stated that she has adopted six children through the foster care system. She told her story of how hard and expensive it is to adopt children without having insurance.

Judy Garrity, Montana Child Alliance, submitted written testimony. EXHIBIT 17

Penny Howard, Adoptive Mothers, stated that if you cannot make the commitment to your birth children then the ideal thing is permanent foster placement. My husband and I have permanently committed to thirty adopted children, most of them physically and mentally handicapped. Children who live in institutions, have no one to advocate for them. Sometimes they have someone's old used wheelchair. Sometimes they don't get situated so they can sit better in wheelchairs. Sometimes they don't get surgery that would prolong their life because no one sees the quality of life. When children die they have no one to cry for them.

Clint Howard, Adopted Child, read a poem about his brother who died in August of 1989. His brother was in an institution and died there because the institution said no one would want to adopt a child that was handicapped.

Trish Tochetti, Adoptive Parent, stated the hardest thing for the children is rejection and insecurity. These boys are in a good

home, but foster care is temporary. They have a 4 1/2 year old boy who has severe mood swings and constantly attempts suicide. They took him to a doctor and he is now taking medicine that controls his mood swings. He is no longer paranoid.

Warren Weagan, Prospective Adoptive Parent, stated that he and his wife are trying to adopt children. The most important thing that needs to be co-shared is good and fast placement for the kids. They need to utilize the biological factor of where they come from. Any family that is desperate would make the children feel special no matter where they came from. The faster a child is placed, the less chance of abuse there would be. The bonding will start sooner. The state is very good at paying medical bills. Many times foster care families do not have time to take the children to doctors for routine things.

Judith Carlson, Montana Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (NASW), stated that she is proud to associate herself with the proponents of this bill.

Kathy McGowan, Montana Residential Child Care Association (MRCCA), stated that permanency planning is very important. Permanency planning needs to be funded properly to carry out the philosophy of permanency planning.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. CROMLEY asked what does permanent placement mean. Ms. Costello stated that adoption is a type of permanent placement, but there are other types too. The first permanent placement is giving the child a minimum level of care to get the child home. The next thing would be to try to get the child to relatives. The foster parents will allow the child to stay where he is comfortable because he has already formed an attachment. This gives foster parents an opportunity to adopt the children that have already been in their care for two or three years. Nation wide 50% of the children adopted, are adopted by their foster parents.

REP. RUSSELL asked if a child is put into permanency foster planning, then into a foster home and the parents were unable to follow through on the department's recommendations on how to get their children back; and it was delayed for a number of years, would that child still be able to go back into his biological family. Mr. Walsh stated that it depends upon the legal status of the children at that point. If the parents weren't interested in keeping their child, then at that point the parents no longer have a legal right. The state is the parent until such time as the child is adopted or someone else seeks custody of the child.

REP. HANSEN asked if there is a limit on how long a child can stay in a foster home. Mr. Walsh answered no.

REP. HANSEN asked what the recommendation from the court is to the foster parent about adoption. Mr. Walsh stated that the intent is to reunify the child with the parents. If that doesn't work, the child remains in foster care then the foster parents may consider adoption.

REP. LEE asked if this plan is in the Governor's budget. Mr. Walsh stated that it is outside of the budget, however the mandate that came from the last Legislature requested a report in terms of services needed by the agency.

REP. CROMLEY asked if every child is being placed in foster homes on a temporary basis for the adoption. Mr. Walsh stated that they are being placed, but the issue is that they are not being placed appropriately.

REP. J. RICE asked if the court terminates the parents rights and makes placements. Ann Gilkey stated that the problem isn't the court. The problem is more with the workers who are overwhelmed with services not being given to the children who are in foster care and going before the court and saying treatment has failed at this time.

REP. J. RICE asked if funding the appropriation, to provide the DFS staff to get these cases prepared and into court, would that solve the problem. Ms. Gilkey stated that it certainly would help. The timeframe would give the judge one more factor to determine whether or not the parents would be able to handle it. Ms. Scott stated that this is a major problem. Children are given low priority in the court system.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. S. RICE read a letter from a foster care family. EXHIBIT 18

HEARING ON HB 260

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. BEVERLY BARNHART, House District 80, Bozeman, stated that this bill is to stop discrimination. This bill simply treats adopted parents and adopted children in the same way birth parents and birth children are treated. Should adoptive parents be treated differently from birth parents regarding insurance.

Proponents' Testimony:

Harriet Tamminga, Montana Interagency Adoption Council, stated that she is an adoptive parent who experienced discrimination. They support this bill because it guarantees people insurance for adopted children. Adoption is a lengthy process. It takes a lot of thought and a lot of effort when you have talked about having the insurance coverage start at the time of placement, which is the time the child enters the home, and the hearts of the

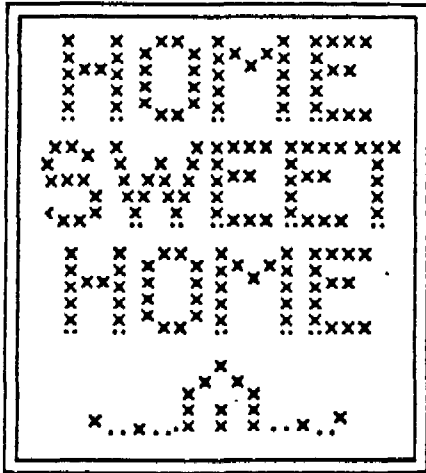
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-30-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. ANGELA RUSSELL, CHAIR	✓		
REP. TIM WHALEN, VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. ARLENE BECKER	✓		
REP. WILLIAM BOHARSKI	✓		
REP. JAN BROWN	✓		
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	✓		
REP. TIM DOWELL	✓		
REP. PATRICK GALVIN	✓		
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	✓		
REP. ROYAL JOHNSON	✓		
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN	✓		
REP. THOMAS LEE	✓		
REP. CHARLOTTE MESSMORE	✓		
REP. JIM RICE	✓		
REP. SHEILA RICE	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES	✓		
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY	✓		
REP. BILL STRIZICH	✓		
REP. ROLPH TUNBY	✓		



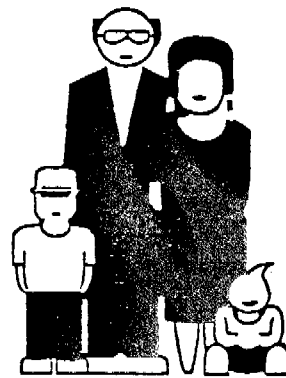
Services called Permanent Planning, Legal Assistance, and Adoption make sure children do not grow up in temporary foster care.

These services help kids feel wanted and secure by finding them a permanent family to call their own.

Look first to parents as the child's best resource for a permanent family.

When parents can't give the child a safe home, relatives or foster parents with close ties to the child are considered.

Sometimes a new family must be found to meet the child's needs.



Permanency services are:

- ✓ Safe homes for kids
- ✓ Visits, keeping kids and parents in close contact
- ✓ Pinpointing what is keeping the family apart
- ✓ Agreeing on what needs to be done for the kids to go home and how long it will take
- ✓ Finding help for parents and kids
- ✓ Straight talk about how things are going
- ✓ Moving kids to a permanent home

When adoption is the plan:

- Deciding adoption is best for the child and it really can happen
- Freeing kids for adoption by getting parents' consent or court termination of parents' rights
- Preparing families, then:
- Finding the family that best meets the child's needs
- Saving memories and family history for the child
- Helping kids say good-bye to the past.
- Ongoing supportive services

Children's Services helps :

- ✓ Parents get legal custody again
- ✓ Consents to adoption of children in permanent custody
- ✓ Recommends a guardian, when adoption is not a possibility

An important part of creating a permanent family is to make sure the child has legal ties to the new family.

ASSURING PERMANENT HOMES FOR CHILDREN:
A PRIORITY FOR CHILDREN TEMPORARILY IN FOSTER CARE IN MONTANA

A change in Montana law is needed -- to require permanent homes for children:

The Montana Children's Agenda supports the position that Montana law needs to require that children in out-of-home placements be provided a permanent stable home in the shortest possible time by the Department of Family Services. This will require additions to the Montana laws that specify requirements and safeguards for children who are removed from their homes as temporary protection from abuse or neglect and are temporarily placed in foster care.

Additional staff resources are needed to assure the amended law is implemented:

To effectively implement the amended law requiring such permanent homes for children, the Department of Family Services should be provided funding for five Permanency Homes Services Managers (one for each of DFS' five regions), whose job will be to assure that children in out-of-home placements are provided a permanent stable home in the shortest possible time. These Permanent Home Services Managers may be either employees of the Department of Family Service or contracted services providers.

Rationale for the needed changes:

A high priority emphasis on assuring that Montana children have permanent, stable homes -- preferably their own natural family's home -- is necessary because the human and financial costs of the exploding population of children in foster care in Montana for long periods are unacceptable.

The number of children in DFS out-of-home placements has been increasing by an average of 5.1% annually during the FY84-FY90 period. In FY84, the unduplicated number of children in out-of-home placements was 2,302 and the number in FY90 was 3,125.

National research has shown that permanency planning must begin very early after a child has been removed from his/her home in order to avert long-term, multiple, traumatic, and costly out-of-home placements. Additional staff are needed to assure that such permanency planning occurs for every child DFS places temporarily in an out-of-home placement.

DFS statistics concerning the approximately 1400 children who were in foster care/out-of-home placements in Montana every month this last year show the urgent need for increased requirements and emphasis for finding permanent homes for children as soon as possible. Approximately 300 of these children are in the permanent custody of the department -- i.e., they are legally the department's children. DFS needs to assure permanent family homes, life-long family ties, not temporary or even long-term foster care homes, for these children. Not doing so is inconsistent with a commitment to the idea that Montana children, as all children, have a right to and a need for a permanent, stable home.

The job of the five additional staff working as Permanent Home Services Managers:

The main, urgent focus of the five Permanent Home Services Managers would be on returning children in out-of-home placements to their family homes. If returning to their own family home is not possible, achieving another permanent family situation -- such as adoption or guardianship or other life-long legal ties to one, permanent family -- in the shortest time possible will be the focus of their efforts.

The Permanent Home Services Managers will conduct case reviews of all children in foster care over three months -- in order to (1) determine what needs to be done in each case to assure a permanent stable home for each child and (2) assist DFS social workers to effectively utilize/find the resources to implement positive and realistic permanency plan options for these children.

Additional key functions of the Permanent Home Services Managers will be to (1) find adoptive homes for children who have been in care for longer periods of time, (2) provide expert case consultation with DFS social workers and family resource specialists, (3) conduct training for DFS workers, supervisors, family resource specialists, teachers, judges, probation officers, guardian ad litem and foster parents on the key features of permanency planning and (4) do education of the general public about the need for permanent stable homes for children.

Benefits for Montana's children:

The avoidance of the trauma and long-term adverse effects of out-of-home placements is the essential and primary benefit of success with this project for assuring permanent homes for children.

Another a clear benefit will be the large savings that will be made when lengthy out-of home placements are replaced by adoptions, family reunifications and life-long legal ties to permanent families. The average length of stay in foster care in Montana is 1.5 years. The minimum cost of family foster care is \$300 per month. If 24 children were in family foster care for one year, the cost would be \$129,600. Assuming that this project could remove 144 children from family foster care -- whose placements would last an average of 1.5 years at \$300/month -- the money saved over three years by not spending it on foster care would be \$777,600. Costs savings for the more costly residential treatment placements would be even higher. The department identified a need for five additional staff assigned specifically to adoptive services to move 50 children in the permanent custody of DFS into permanent homes.

When the permanent homes found are adoptive homes, years of foster care payments are saved and the best alternative to natural families (i.e., adoptive families) is achieved. And encouraging the use of adoption subsidies, to assist families who otherwise would not be able to take on the responsibilities of adoption, would also amount to cost savings since such adoption subsidies are always less than foster care payments.

Endorsements for this Permanent Homes for Children proposal:

This project of assuring permanent homes for children is endorsed by the Montana Interagency Adoption Council, whose members are Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, LDS, Shodair, MICAHA, Inc., DFS, Florence Crittendon Home, Montana Post Adoption Center. The proposal is also supported by the Montana State Foster/Adoptive Parents Association.

Cost estimate:

Costs for basic salary only: \$203,200 in basic salaries for the FY92-FY93 biennium
-- FTE or Contracted Personnel salary at grade 14
-- \$20,320/year x 5 = \$101,600 per year

Total costs (salary, operating costs, training): \$371,200 for the biennium
-- \$37,120 per position x 5 = \$185,600 per year

12/3/90

30 January 1991

10
DATE 1-30-91
HB 299

Dear Members of the 1991 Legislature

We are writing in support of House Bill 299 introduced by Representative Sheila Rice which would both expand and streamline services to Montana children often "caught" in the limbo of temporary placements which often span many years of time.

We were united with four siblings under a foster/adopt plan in September, 1986 and finalized our adoption in October, 1987. The siblings ranged in age in 1986 from 2 years of age to 7 years and included a girl with cerebral palsy. During the span of each child's life, by that point, they had been exposed to multiple temporary placements and split apart from each other. By the time the

birth parents had relinquished
custody, multiple adoptive
homes were being considered
which would mean permanent
placement, but permanent
separation from and by
lack of the children.

Because of quick and skilled
creativity of adoption staff
intervenor, these siblings
"happened" to be placed together
with George and I as
capable, willing and nurturing
adoptive parents. We enjoy
an open adoption, cultivating
positive relationships with
a large extended biological
family and several foster
families.

Quick, incisive planning and
processing can/will greatly
diminish the children's wait
for permanency.
Mary Houghton Johnson
3126 Haystack
Grand Falls,
N.J. 07426

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

2 of 2

Human Services & Aging COMMITTEE BILL NO. HB 299
DATE 1-30-91 SPONSOR(S) Rep. Sheila Rice

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Rebecca Jones	Montana Children's Home ^{Shelton}	✓	
Pauline Kellum	Self	amc	
JUDITH CARLSON	MT CHPTA, NASU	X	
Nana, O'Neil	Borenson Mt.	yes	
Sharon Speck	MT Post Adoption Center ^{Helena}	yes	
Ann Gilkey	Dept. Family Services	X	
John Costello		yes	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By Rep. Angela Russell, Chair, on February 11,
1991, at 12:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Angela Russell, Chair (D)
Tim Whalen, Vice-Chairman (D)
William Boharski (R)
Jan Brown (D)
Brent Cromley (D)
Tim Dowell (D)
Patrick Galvin (D)
Royal Johnson (R)
Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Thomas Lee (R)
Charlotte Messmore (R)
Jim Rice (R)
Sheila Rice (D)
Wilbur Spring (R)
Carolyn Squires (D)
Bill Strizich (D)
Rolph Tunby (R)

Members Excused: Reps. Arlene Becker, Stella Jean Hansen,
Jessica Stickney

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Jeanne Krumm, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 299

Motion: REP. S. RICE MOVED HB 299 DO PASS.

Motion/Vote: REP. S. RICE moved to amend HB 299. EXHIBIT 1.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: REP. S. RICE MOVED HB 299 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

REP. BOHARSKI stated that he has a concern with the bill. Is
there an appropriation section with the bill? REP. S. RICE
stated that they are working on a fiscal note.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 2-11-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. ANGELA RUSSELL, CHAIR	✓		
REP. TIM WHALEN, VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. ARLENE BECKER			✓
REP. WILLIAM BOHARSKI	✓		
REP. JAN BROWN	✓		
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	✓		
REP. TIM DOWELL	✓		
REP. PATRICK GALVIN	✓		
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN			✓
REP. ROYAL JOHNSON	✓		
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN	✓		
REP. THOMAS LEE	✓		
REP. CHARLOTTE MESSMORE	✓		
REP. JIM RICE	✓		
REP. SHEILA RICE	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES	✓		
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY			✓
REP. BILL STRIZICH	✓		
REP. ROLPH TUNBY	✓		

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 12, 1991

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that House Bill 299 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended .

Signed: _____
Angela Russell, Chairman

And, that such amendments read:

1. Title, line 5.

Strike: "REQUIRING"

Insert: "AUTHORIZING"

2. Page 1, line 14.

Strike: "shall"

Insert: "may"

3. Page 2, lines 9 and 10.

Strike: "the circumstances" on line 9 through "follows, " on line 10

Insert: "any of the following circumstances"

4. Page 2, line 14.

Strike: "or"

5. Page 2, line 21.

Strike: "."

Insert: "; or"

6. Page 2, lines 22 and 23.

Strike: "(2) The court" on line 22 through "that" on line 23

Insert: "(d)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections.

1
DATE 2-11-91
HB 299

Amendments to House Bill No. 299
First Reading Copy

Requested by Rep. Sheila Rice
For the Committee on Human Services and Aging

Prepared by David S. Niss
February 11, 1991

1. Title, line 5.
Strike: "REQUIRING"
Insert: "AUTHORIZING"

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Strike: "shall"
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Strike: "the circumstances" on line 9 through "follows, " on line
10
Insert: "any of the following circumstances"

4. Page 2, line 14.
Strike: "or"

5. Page 2, line 21.
Strike: "."
Insert: "; or"

6. Page 2, lines 22 and 23.
Strike: "(2) The court" on line 22 through "that" on line 23
Insert: "(d)"

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER

1 of 2

Human Services & Aging

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 299

DATE 1-30-91

SPONSOR(S) Rep. Sheila Rice

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
JETTY Bay	DFS	YES	
Harriet Tamminga	mt. Interagency Adoption Council	yes	
R. McGowan	mt. Res. Child Care	yes	
James Scott	Adoption Mothers: FACEJ	yes	
Shirley Smith	adoptive parents	yes	
D. Mark Ricks	LDS SS	✓	
George Lehnke	Adoptive Mother & Father	yes	
MARY Lehnke	" " "	yes	
Tom Lehnke	Adopted Child	yes	
Mike Lehnke	" "	yes	
WIKKI Lehnke	" "	yes	
BOBY Lehnke	" "	yes	
Karen Worthey	Childrenton Home	yes	
Julia Garrison	MCA	yes	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

took hundreds of hours to understand the immunization program which seems simple but is not. There is no way of knowing how much money they need it could be as high as \$1 million or as low as \$300,000. The program needs an infusion so the clinics can stay open and deal with outbreaks and so Montana's kids aren't going around like the inner city kids in Chicago and Washington.

Questions From Committee Members: REP. CODY asked how much was in the Governor's budget for this immunization. REP. MESSMORE said she did not know. REP. BRADLEY said what they had in subcommittee was a committee mod. REP. CODY said, if we as an appropriation committee have to look at what is happening politically, we can't afford to do this because the Governor has said he will not raise taxes and we don't have the money. REP. MESSMORE said she thought that the Appropriations Committee needs to look at all the cat and dog bills and this bill needs to stand with all the rest. We do currently have an immunization program which is state and federally funded and it has been that way for many years. They simply need to add more dollars to make the immunization program more complete.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked if it isn't, in a sense, the responsibility of a parent to do this? REP. MESSMORE said many parents paid for and continue to pay for their children's immunization. Even those who go to the public clinics, can contribute to the immunizations, and a lot of citizens take their children for well child tests who do pay for the immunizations.

REP. ZOOK said somewhere it was mentioned that \$353,000 was for catch up of college students. Did the sponsor think there were college students that could not afford to take care of the immunization cost themselves. REP. MESSMORE said they are attempting to put together a blanket program for those 18 year olds who needed this vaccine although it may not have been readily available when they were 12 years old. She would not be able to speak for every 18 year old in the state.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. MESSMORE said everyone on the committee had heard the bill. It was heard in the Human Services subcommittee and she had addressed it on the House floor. The need is well established and the federal grant they have been functioning under is not sufficient and HB 376 is flexible and would tend to meet the needs of the state as they arise. She would urge support for the bill.

Testimony was handed into the secretary EXHIBITS 15, 16 AND 17 on HB 990 and are included with the minutes.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 299

Appropriate Money to DFS for Permanency Planning for
Children in Foster Care

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SHEILA RICE, House district 36, Great Falls, said she was presenting this bill for the purpose of striking the appropriation. This bill provides for permanent placement of children in Foster Care. It changes the legality of Permanent Disposition by the court within certain areas. There are 181 children in permanent custody of DFS and because of a shortage of staffing there has been a problem getting permanent plans made for those children. This bill would allow the courts to terminate parental rights in a little different way. She thought it was now worded to be a fair thing for the child, the parent and the court. She told where her amendments would go. EXHIBIT 18.

Questions From Committee Members: REP. CODY said under section 1 you change "shall" to "may", why? REP. RICE said that amendment was a committee amendment in Human Services. The reason it is there is the committee wanted to make sure they were protecting parental rights as well as the child's rights. REP. CODY asked about the 181 children in permanent custody, where did you get those figures? REP. RICE said that was in testimony from the Dept. in the original hearing in Human Services. REP. CODY said we have heard they don't have a very good system of tracking those children so how do we know there are only 181. REP. RICE said she did not know for sure, she only knew that was what was presented, she would be glad to do some research and get back to her. REP. CODY said there is something in the bill about a 2 year permanency planning project. How are they going to do that project without any money? Mr. Olsen said one of the things he had done when he came into the department was to prioritize permanency planning, it has already been done, we have a project initiated, and the reason we have a count is because he directed the social workers to go out and count the kids.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. RICE said these kids need a future too and she hoped the committee would support this program.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 418

Creates a Statutory Appropriation to Allow the Board of
Water Well Contractors to Expend Surety Bond
Forfeitures

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JIM MADISON, House District 75, Jefferson said he was carrying this bill at the request of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and it deals with the Water Well Contractor's Board. This is a statutory appropriation and there is not any general fund money involved.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

3-19-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. FRANCIS BARDANOUVE, CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. RAY PECK, VICE-CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. DOROTHY BRADLEY	✓		
REP. JOHN COBB	✓		
REP. DOROTHY CODY	✓		
REP. MARY ELLEN CONNELLY	✓		
REP. ED GRADY	✓		
REP. LARRY GRINDE	✓		
REP. JOHN JOHNSON	✓		
REP. MIKE KADAS	✓		
REP. BERV KIMBERLEY	✓		
REP. WM. "RED" MENAHAN	✓		
REP. JERRY NISBET	✓		
REP. MARY LOU PETERSON	✓		
REP. JOE QUILICI	✓		
REP. CHUCK SWYSGOOD	✓		
REP. BOB THOFT	✓		
REP. TOM ZOOK	✓		

EX-101
DATE 3-1
HB 299

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 299

March 19, 1991

Submitted by Sheila Rice

Strike: Page 4, line 24 After "Section 3." , strike the rest of line 25 through the "to" on line 1 of page 5.

Insert: "The department shall"

(needs new tag line after New Section on page 4 line 24)

Strike all of subsection (2) line 11 through 13 on page 5.

REP. JOHNSON asked if they could retire after 20 years of service regardless of age? Mr. Wilson said yes, that is what this bill would do. They would not have to wait until age 50.

Vote: Motion to reconsider passed 9 to 6 with 3 absent and Rep. Peck, Bardanouve, Peterson, Cody, Kadas and Grinde voting no.

Vote: Motion to amend passed 14 to 2 with 2 absent and Rep. Cody and Grinde voting no.

Motion to Amend: The motion to amend was out of order and was repeated at this point.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: REP. CONNELLY moved HB 595 as amended do pass. Second by Rep. Nisbet.

Discussion: REP. BRADLEY asked Mr. Wilson about the 20 years service. If a police officer started at age 23 he could retire at age 43 and that did not seem right to her. Mr. Wilson said the argument is that the police officers get very low pay for the amount of stress they are under. They have a difficult time keeping the officer because of the low pay. This is an incentive for the cities to keep the officers for a longer period of time.

REP. BRADLEY said she felt there were a lot of jobs that were high stress and REP. STRIZICH said this is extremely onerous to the individuals that do this job because of the size of the agencies in Montana, they are all small. A person that starts in the police force will probably drive a patrol car until they retire and most of the people that enter police work do so at a later date, so when they start at 28 or 30 they are pushing against 50 before they can retire.

REP. CONNELLY read on the information, "an officer who began work prior to July 1, 1975 is eligible to retire after 20 years regardless of the age". This would just allow all officers to retire after 20 years regardless of age.

Tape 3

Vote: Motion passed 9 to 6 with 2 absent and Rep. Menahan abstaining. Roll Call Vote # 18.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 299

Appropriate Money to DFS for Permanency Planning for Children in Foster Care

Motion/Vote: REP. CODY moved to reconsider HB 299. Second by Rep. Kadas. Motion passed.

Motion: REP. CODY moved to amend HB 299 EXHIBIT 21. Second by Rep. Kadas.

Discussion: REP. CODY said this takes out the appropriation of money to DFS. The Dept. would like the bill passed without the money.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked if this sets up a program that will be in for money in two years? REP. CODY said no, it is her understanding that they just want the authority. This would save money in the long run because these children would be adopted by permanent families.

REP. BRADLEY said she would support this amendment. If these children could be put into a permanent place it would be a real advantage to the state.

Vote: Motion to amend passed unanimously.

Motion/Vote: REP. CODY moved HB 299 as amended do pass. Second by Rep. Quilici. Motion passed 12 to 3 with 3 absent and Rep. Grinde, Cobb and Bardanouve voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 937

Revise and Continue programs Under the Montana Child Care Act

Motion: REP. CODY moved to reconsider HB 937. Second by Rep. Kadas.

Discussion: REP. CODY said this will take out the appropriation of \$440,000 from the bill. The purpose of the bill now is to repeal the dates that were in the bill. It would strike section 2 and leave section 1.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked what this bill does if we remove the money and REP. CODY said we have removed the AFTER and the \$240,000 for that program but if we remove the repeal the law will remain in place and they can spend the federal money they may have access to for child care.

Vote: Motion passed 15 to 3 with Rep. Bardanouve, Grinde and Cobb voting no.

Motion to Amend/Vote: REP. KADAS moved to strike section 2 in HB 937. Second by Rep. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously

Motion/Vote: REP. KADAS moved HB 937 do pass as amended. Second by Rep. Menahan. Motion passed 14 to 3 with 1 absent and Rep. Bardanouve, Grinde and Cobb voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 103

Prohibit Pretrial Detention of Mentally Ill Persons in Jail

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 3-27-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. FRANCIS BARDANOUVE, CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. RAY PECK, VICE-CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. DOROTHY BRADLEY	✓		
REP. JOHN COBB	✓		
REP. DOROTHY CODY	✓		
REP. MARY ELLEN CONNELLY	✓		
REP. ED GRADY	✓		
REP. LARRY GRINDE	✓		
REP. JOHN JOHNSON	✓		
REP. MIKE KADAS	✓		
REP. BERV KIMBERLEY	✓		
REP. WM. "RED" MENAHAN	✓		
REP. JERRY NISBET	✓		
REP. MARY LOU PETERSON	✓		
REP. JOE QUILICI	✓		
REP. CHUCK SWYSGOOD	✓		
REP. BOB THOFT	✓		
REP. TOM ZOOK	✓		

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 27, 1991

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Appropriations report that House Bill 299 (second reading copy -- yellow) do pass as amended .

Signed: _____
Francis Bardanoue, Chairman

And, that such amendments read:

1. Title, lines 7 through 9.

Following: "LIMITS" on line 7

Strike: remainder of line 7 through "CARE;" on line 9

2. Page 4, line 24 through page 5 line 1.

Following: "Section 3." on line 24

Strike: remainder of line 24 through "the" on page 5 line 1

Insert: "Permanency planning project. The"

3. Page 5, lines 1 through 3.

Following: "family services" on line 1

Strike: remainder of line 1 through "to" on line 3

Insert: "shall"

4. Page 5, line 6.

Strike: "(a)"

Insert: "(1)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

5. Page 5, lines 11 through 13.

Strike: line 11 through 13 in their entirety

Amendments to House Bill No. 299
Second Reading Copy

21
3-27-91
HB 299

Requested by Representative Cody
For the Committee on House Appropriations

Prepared by Legislative Fiscal Analyst
March 26, 1991

1. Title, lines 7 through 9.
Following: "LIMITS;" on line 7
Strike: remainder of line 7 through "CARE;" on line 9
2. Page 4, line 24 through page 5, line 1.
Following: "Section 3." on line 24
Strike: remainder of line 24 through "the" on page 5, line 1
Insert: "Permanency planning project. The"
3. Page 5, lines 1 through 3.
Following: "family services" on line 1
Strike: remainder of line 1 through "to" on line 3
Insert: "shall"
4. Page 5, line 6.
Strike: "(a)"
Insert: "(1)"
Renumber: subsequent subsection
5. Page 5, lines 11 through 13.
Strike: lines 11 through 13 in their entirety

The Aklestad motion failed.

Recommendation and Vote:

Senator Jacobson said they would now vote on the original motion made by Senator Franklin that HB 876 Be Concurred In. The motion carried with Senators Hammond, Devlin and Aklestad opposed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 299

Motion:

Senator Devlin moved to amend HB 299 on line 2, page 3. It would be clarified in the new language that it would be a court approved treatment plan.

Senator Jacobson said that would not be a problem because it is done anyway.

Senator Devlin moved to amend HB 299. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Senator Aklestad asked if the bill is in the Governor's budget. Senator Jacobson said the money is all out, there isn't any. Senator Aklestad asked if the general fund money has been taken out, and Senator Jacobson said yes it had been.

Senator Nathe said he would like someone to explain the need for this bill.

Tom Olsen said the primary purpose of the bill is to put into legislative intent that the Dept. of Family Services prioritize permanency planning for placement of children.

Senator Nathe said that is implied in the operation of that department without it being in statute. He thought it didn't do anything except permanency planning and he would assume that anyone interested in the welfare of children would want to see stability in their lives.

Tom Olsen said that is, in theory, what the Department of Family Services should be doing, but in practice, the department has not done that very well in the past. There are several reasons for that, and one is they are very short staffed and also, it is hard for them to identify when kids have been in placement for a long period of time without going back and find their files. The judges have such overloaded dockets that it is difficult for the judge to bring the case back up for review. He said they tend to lose kids in foster care for up to two years. He doesn't feel foster care should be long term. It should be short term, and if it isn't possible to get the child back in the family, they

should be placed in a permanent home. This bill gives the department the authority to do that, and it tells them to prioritize that.

Senator Nathe asked when dealing in foster care, does permanent home mean adoption. Mr. Olsen said yes, adoption or another permanent plan. It doesn't have to be adoption, but adoption is usually the first option. Senator Nathe said we have expanded the reasons or the authority of the state to remove children from situations and into foster care for their protection, and now we are accelerating the adoption of children out of foster care. Mr. Olsen said that was correct.

Senator Hammond said he has concerns with them making a permanent assignment. Once they have been adopted, what recourse is there, and does the department look at them again. Mr. Olsen said they stay in touch with a special needs child throughout the adoption, but if it is a child who does not have special medical or physiological needs, when the child is adopted, the department considers that to be the adoptive family.

Senator Hammond said his fear is that once the children are out of the foster care role, the Department of Family Services feels it has been taken care of and many times they haven't taken care of it. He thinks it is a way to alleviate somebody's problems, but not the child's problems.

Mr. Olsen said this is a good faith effort to alleviate the child's problems. If the child remains in foster care for an extended period of time, the child is in limbo. Children are generally very happy to have a family of their own and to realize they are going to be cared for and loved and that it is going to be a long term situation.

Senator Waterman said in the over all care of young children, she thinks it would be best and the most ideal situation to be born and reared in a natural home where there are loving parents or parent, but this is not always the case. When they fall into the state system of care, it is very important we make every effort as early as we can to reunite the child with the family and that requires social workers. If that cannot happen, we need to move quickly to make some other permanent placement.

Senator Hammond said he was responsible for starting the Northern Montana Youth Ranch and helped place many foster children in that area. He said it was because the social workers were not very professional in what they were doing that problems were caused. He said he has many fears with this bill because there have been children taken away from families that should have never been taken away from. He feels there have been foster children who have been ignored and that grandparents would gladly have taken them and the grandparents' wishes were ignored. If this bill goes through, there is an age they can adopt them and do quite well, but he has seen instances where an older child is adopted

and it does not work.

Senator Keating asked Mr. Olsen if at the present time the department has a lever with the parents to make them face up to their responsibility by threatening to take the children away from them. Mr. Olsen said yes.

Senator Keating asked if the department could establish permanent adoption without this bill. Mr. Olsen said yes, they can, and they are doing that right now, but this bill puts into legislative intent what they plan to do.

Senator Keating asked to what extent does the court determine what the department does. Mr. Olsen said the court determines entirely what they do in terms of removal of children from the home.

Senator Keating asked where the court gets its expertise to make its decision. Mr. Olsen said the court gets its expertise from the social workers and other members of the community that provide information on the case.

Senator Keating asked if the passage of this bill will put greater pressure on parents to accept their responsibility if they are threatened with the loss of their child.

Mr. Olsen said right now when a child goes into care they try to bring about unification through a treatment plan. If the parents problem is alcohol or drug abuse, they will be required to go to counseling. If their problem is they keep hitting their child, they will be required to go to parenting courses. If they don't know how to take care of their child nutritionally, they will see a nutritionist. In most cases the parents will say they will do these conditions, but there are other cases where the parent will not agree to go to any of the treatment plans. Right now, the department does not have the authority to exercise their authority over a child in the family for the reason that the parents will not comply with the court order as far as the treatment plan goes.

Senator Harding said it bothers her about what Sen. Hammond said about grandparents not being able to take these children, and she wants to follow through on that and see where other family rights are. Where does the rest of the family fit into the Department of Family Services' plan for these children.

Mr. Olsen said it is the Department of Family Services' policy that if there is a suitable home within the extended family, that is where that child would be placed.

Recommendation and Vote:

Senator Harding moved HB 299 As Amended, Be Concurred In. The motion carried with Senators Hammond, Aklestad, Tveit, Bengtson

and Nathe opposed. Senator Franklin will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 569

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes:

Senator Waterman moved the amendment. Senator Waterman said this is a management information system that would allow them to track where individuals are in the system and would also allow them to do claiming for the appropriate placements and develop the continuing community based care that has been recommended in HB 100.

Senator Aklestad asked where the funds would go otherwise.

Terry Cohea, LFA, said on page 2, line 17 the bill has been amended to provide that this appropriation is contingent on two things. First, it is contingent upon reconciliation of an account in SRS placing the money in the general fund. The first approximately \$900,000 of the money from that source is placed in the general fund appropriated to SRS for the TEAMS project. Any remaining balance, up to \$627,000, is appropriated for this project. If this appropriation did not exist and the money were reconciled out of the SRS account, it would go to the general fund, it would not go to family services, unless the legislature appropriated that somewhere else.

Senator Aklestad asked if we were using general fund. Ms. Cohea answered that any state money that is reconciled from this account is deposited in the general fund.

Senator Jacobson asked how often that account is reconciled. Ms. Cohea said the agency testified that they have not reconciled since 1985. This is a result of an audit finding that they had not reconciled recently. In HB 2 the TEAMS appropriation is contingent upon that reconciliation and this is the second appropriation in this bill.

Senator Jacobson asked if this was not money that, while it is general fund money, it was not recognized in either the governor's budget or the LFA budget, as money flowing into the general fund. Ms. Cohea said that was correct.

Senator Keating asked regarding the information system, is this a requirement, and is the department looking at federal sanctions if this isn't done.

Mr. Olsen said yes, the federal government provides funding for related money, which is their foster care federal money, requires that they keep a lot of data, with a 2 percent margin of error. If they do not keep the data, and have them on hand, they will be sanctioned by the federal government and will lose a percentage

ROLL CALL

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

DATE 4-10-91

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

8:00 a.m.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR JACOBSON CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR JERGESON, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR BECK	✓		
SENATOR BENGTON	✓		
SENATOR BIANCHI	✓		
SENATOR DEVLIN	✓		
SENATOR FRITZ	✓		
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		
SENATOR HARDING	✓		
SENATOR HOCKETT	✓		
SENATOR KEATING	✓		
SENATOR MANNING			✓
SENATOR NATHE	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
April 12, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration House Bill No. 299 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 299 be amended and as so amended be concurred in:

1. Page 3, line 2.

Following: "plan"

Insert: "approved by the court."

Signed: _____

Judy H. Jacobson, Chairman

115 4-10-91
Amd. Coord.

Sec. of Senate

761334SC.SLB

attached as Exhibit 1).

Amendments, Discussion and Votes:

Senator Aklestad questioned the amendment offered as Exhibit 1. Senator Jergeson said this is an additional option that the Board of Investments may choose and he added he was confident they would continue to operate under the rules.

Senator Jergeson's substitute motion to amend HB 300 (amendment attached as Exhibit 1) carried. Senator Aklestad opposed to substitute motion to amend.

Recommendation and Vote:

Senator Jergeson moved HOUSE BILL 300 AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried with Senators Nathe and Tveit opposed.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 299

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Sheila Rice, sponsor, stated there is no fiscal impact to HB 299. She said HB 299 provides for permanency planning for children in foster care. The bill proposes to give the court the ability to terminate parental rights under various conditions. The bill will also allow the Department of Family Services to look at every child placed in foster care and determine what needs to be done so the children won't be "floating" in foster care.

Proponents' Testimony:

Tom Olsen, Department of Family Services Director, stated their support of HB 299 as written. He said they have instituted a permanency planning project.

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members:

With regard to a question from Senator Hammond regarding the period of time for a child under DFS care, Mr. Olsen said there are approximately 150 kids that have been in foster care for more than a year and there is a like number of children that have been in foster care for over two years. He noted his opinion that that is too long a period of time for a child to be placed in foster care and that it should be a short term placement while they work with the family. He noted when he is talking about extended periods of time, he is generally talking about children being there for more than six months. When asked by Senator Hammond if this bill would deal with group home children, Mr. Olsen said that deals with children in family foster care. He noted they are children that are more adoptable and children in

group homes tend to be there for shorter periods of time.

Senator Jacobson added there was a study done by the legislative fiscal analyst in the interim showing there were more and more foster care children staying longer in homes.

Senator Stimatz questioned how many social workers are available to handle the program and noted one of the weaknesses is they have not had enough help. Mr. Olsen said there are not enough social workers to go around. In a question from Senator Stimatz regarding finding foster care providers, Mr. Olsen said one of the reasons they have trouble finding providers is they are not adequately compensated.

Senator Nathe questioned what the term "treatment" on page 3 of the bill means and wondered if we are adding another criteria or expanding the criteria in order for the Department to take children out of the home. Mr. Olsen said what treatment plan means is if a child has to be removed from a family, the social worker tries to work with the family to reunite the family. Mr. Olsen said in regard to a question from Senator Nathe that this is an expansion for the current law.

When questioned by Senator Nathe as to criteria that can occur under court order to take the children away, Ann Gilkey, DFS legal counsel said there is a provision not a part of this bill for 48 hour emergency removal. The law addresses with any sort of longer term removal or termination of parental rights it goes through the youth court and does require court order. Ms. Gilkey said HB 299 facilitates getting a child who is unable to return to their family for whatever reason freed up so they can be permanently placed, either adoptively or permanent foster care.

Senator Waterman questioned how many social workers were recommended for DFS. Mr. Olsen said an additional 108 additional social workers were recommended.

With regard to a question from Senator Weeding regarding parental treatment classes, Mr. Olsen said many treatment plans include parental classes. It could include family counseling, alcohol and drug abuse counseling or working with the school district in an attempt to put the child in a treatment plan. He added it is completely dependent on the individual situation. Workers try to assess what is needed in the family and what the child's needs are.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Rice closed.

ROLL CALL

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

DATE 4/4/91

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

noon meeting

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR JACOBSON CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR JERGESON, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR BECK	✓		
SENATOR BENGTSO	✓		
SENATOR BIANCHI	✓		
SENATOR DEVLIN	✓		
SENATOR FRITZ	✓		
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		
SENATOR HARDING	✓		
SENATOR HOCKETT	✓		
SENATOR KEATING	✓		
SENATOR MANNING			✓
SENATOR NATHE	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

ROLL CALL

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

DATE _____

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR VVEIT	✓		
SENATOR VAUGHN	✓		
SENATOR WATERMAN	✓		
SENATOR WEEDING	✓		
<i>Senator Franklin</i>	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.